

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF  
HONEY-EATER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 13th Dec., 1909.)

MENTION has been previously made, in the September number of this publication, of a small collection of birds sent by Mr. Henry L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, New South Wales, to the Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney, for determination, and from which I there described a new species under the name of *Acanthiza whitlocki*. Among this collection, formed by Mr. F. L. Whitlock at Lake Way, in the East Murchison District, Western Australia, was a single skin labelled "*Pseudogerygone* ———, ad. male, Lake Way, East Murchison District, 19/7/09. F.L.W." The shape of the bill, the absence of rictal bristles, and general form, however, denoted at once that it was a Honey-eater. From its dull-coloured plumage I thought it possibly may have been an adult female of some unknown species, and therefore applied for more specimens. These Mr. White has recently received from Mr. Whitlock, and forwarded them on to the Curator. They consist of two more adult males, an adult female, and a nestling, obtained in the same locality. Mr. Whitlock was also fortunate enough to obtain its nest and eggs.

LACUSTROICA, *gen. nov.*

Exposed portion of bill slightly less than half the length of head, moderately straight, equal in height to breadth at nostril, the culmen distinctly arched, and decurved towards the tip; tongue grooved above, bifid at the tip. First primary short, the second equal in length to the seventh, the almost square end of the wing formed by the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth primaries, which are almost equal in length. Tail about two-thirds of the length of wing. Tarsi long, slender, about twice the length of bill.

LACUSTROICA WHITEI, *sp. nov.*

*Adult Male*.—General colour above ashy or dull greyish-brown; quills dusky brown, the outer webs of the innermost secondaries like the back, those of the outer series margined around the apical portion with whitey-brown or ashy-white; remainder of the quills less distinctly edged on their outer webs with ashy-white; upper tail coverts like the back; tail dark brown, the central feathers indistinctly margined around their tips with dull brownish-white, the remainder with a white spot at the tip of the inner web, larger on the outermost feather on either side, which is of a paler brown and has the outer web very narrowly edged with whitey-brown; lores, forehead, crown and sides of the head, ear coverts, and sides of the neck ashy dull greyish-brown, chin and

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centre of the upper throat dull white ; lower throat and foreneck pale greyish-brown ; remainder of the under surface and under tail coverts white, very faintly tinged with pale creamy-brown, and which extends on to the feathers of the foreneck in some specimens. "Bill dark horn colour, the base of lower mandible pale ; legs and feet lead-grey ; iris dull earthy-brown" (Whitlock). Total length (of skin), 4 inches ; wing 2.4, tail 1.75, bill 0.35, tarsus 0.6.

*Adult Female*.—Similar in plumage to the male.

*Nestling*.—Resembles the adult in plumage, but has a narrow ring of small whitish feathers around the eye, tinged with yellowish-green, the latter colour also extending on to feathers of the sides of the head, chin, throat, foreneck, and the outer webs of most of the quills. Total length (of skin), 3 inches ; wing 1.95, tail 1.

*Habitat*.—Lake Way, East Murchison District, Western Australia.

*Remarks*.—The genus *Lacustroica* is allied to *Entomophila*, and to that section of it which includes *E. picta*, but differs from it principally in having a shorter bill, longer tarsi, and a different wing-formula. In its dull colours it more closely approaches *E. albigularis* and *E. ruficularis*. *Lacustroica inconspicua* would fittingly designate this modestly plumaged little Honey-eater inhabiting the vicinity of Lake Way, but in response to a request from the owner of the specimens, who has done so much recently to advance Australian ornithology, I have associated with it the name of his son, Mr. Alfred Henry Ebsworth White, who, although yet young in years, I am informed is worthily following in his father's footsteps. Although generically allied to *Entomophila*, White's Honey-eater is an entirely new and distinct species, having no near ally, and may easily be distinguished from any other member of the family Meliphagidæ inhabiting Australia.

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#### BOOKS, &c.

THE NATURALISED FLORA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. By J. M. Black, Adelaide. 5s.

The author of this handy work of 192 pages has laid botanical students and others under a debt of gratitude to him for the great amount of information he has compressed into his little volume. Commencing with a glossary of botanical terms, a few hints are given as to drying specimens, also some simple points to remember in pronouncing the Latin names of plants. Half a dozen pages are devoted to a key to the families, then the naturalised plants are dealt with. Of these 368 species are described, illustrated in the text with 206 drawings by the author ; these, though on a small scale, are very clear, and quite sufficient for identification purposes. A brief diagnosis of the genus, with in many cases the derivation of its name, is given, then